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Message Text

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42
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 IGA-01 DRC-01 /079 W
---------- 109477
R 112130Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4513
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ/XR

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6679

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS BL
SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN REQUEST FOR USG AIRLIFT SUPPORT

1. THE BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE IN AIRLIFTING HOUSING MODULES FROM LA PAZ TO THE BENI AREA. HIS LETTER STATES (TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH) QUOTE THE PERMANENT NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED A DONATION OF PREFABRICATED HOUSING MODULES TO ALLEVIATE THE CRITICAL SITUATION OF FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE DISASTERS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE RECENT PERIOD OF FLOODS. THIS COMMITTEE HAS DECICED UPON THE INSTALLATION OF FOURTEEN OF THESE MODULES IN THE CASRAABE REGION OF THE BENI DEPARTMENT, ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS FROM TRINIDAD. FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE NEED TO TRANSPORT THE FOURTEEN PREFABRICATED MODULES FROM LA PAZ TO TRINIDAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, FOR WHICH WE SOLICIT, THROUGH YOU, THE COOPERATION OF THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE. TECHNICAL DATA OF EACH MODULE: APPROXIMATE WEIGHT 6500 KILOGRAMS (14,300 POUNDS), APPROXIMATE VOLUME 40 CUBIC METERS (470 CUBIC FEET), MACIMUM DIMENSION OF ONE ELEMENT 6.21 METERS (20.4 FEET). THE TOTAL WEIGHT TO BE TRANSPORTED IS APPROXIMATELY 91,000 KILOGRAMS (201,000 POUNDS) WITH A VOLUME OF (SIC) 56 CUBIC METERS (660 CUBIC FEET). UNQUOTE.
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2. IN CONVERSATION WITH US DEFENSE ATTACHE ON THIS SUBJECT, MAJOR LOPEZ OF BOLIVIAN MOD STATED THAT EACH MODULE DISASSEMBLES INTO SIX UNITS MEASURING APPROXIMATELY FOUR INCHES BY TWENTY FEET.

3. COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE IN BOLIVIA DO NOT HAVE THE CAPAICTY TO ANDLE CARGO OF THIS BULK. SURFACE MOVEMENT WOULD BE CIRCUITOUS VIA RIVER TO PURERO VALLAROEL THEN BY RIVER TO TRINIDAD. PRESENT LOW WATER CONDITIONS IN THE ICHILO RIVER WOULD PROBABLY PRECLUDE THE RIVER PORTION OF THE MOVEMENT.

4. DAO/LA PAZ FORWARDED THIS REQUEST TO USCINCSO WHICH RESPONDED BY USCINCSO/SCAFO MESSAGE, AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE REQUEST OF REFERENCED MESSAGE DOES NOT QUALIFY AS A CIVIC ACTION PROJECT NOR DOES THIS HEADQUARTERS HAVE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE EXCEPTION TO DOD 4515.13-R. SUGGEST AMBASSADOR CONSIDER REQUEST TO SEC STATE. UNQUOTE.

5. WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF THE URGENCY OF NEED FOR THESE UNITS IN THE CASARABE REGION, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE AREA WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY THE RECENT FLOODS. MOREOVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE AIRLIFT SUPPORT REQUIRED WOULD TAX THE CAPABILITIES OF USAF UNITS IN PANAMA. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE REQUEST FROM THE BOLIVIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR U.S. AIRLIFT SUPPORT IS JUSTIFIED.

6. EMBASSY SOLICITS DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT IN FORWARDING REQUEST TO DOD FOR APPROVAL OF AIRLIFT AS USG-SPONSORED CIVIC ACTION EFFORT. USG ASSISTANCE WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY GOB AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENT USG OBJECTIVES.
STEDMAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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